

Ref.: C.L.22.2018

The World Health Organization (WHO) presents its compliments to Member States and has the honour to inform them that WHO is consulting with its Member States to have a better understanding of the current level of national pandemic influenza preparedness.

An influenza pandemic is an unpredictable but reoccurring event that can have serious consequences for human health and socioeconomic well-being worldwide. Advanced planning and preparedness are critical to mitigate the risk and impact of an influenza pandemic.

It has been nearly 10 years since the most recent influenza pandemic, which occurred in 2009. Many important lessons were learned and good practices in pandemic preparedness were identified from the response to the 2009 influenza pandemic, and these were reflected in the most recent WHO guiding documents on pandemic influenza preparedness – the *Pandemic influenza risk management (PIRM)* and *A checklist for pandemic influenza risk and impact management*. Although Member States have made progress in pandemic influenza preparedness, many countries still lack a national pandemic influenza preparedness plan, or have a plan that is either not publicly available or has not been updated since it was first developed, before the 2009 influenza pandemic.

This consultation will allow WHO to have a better understanding of the current level of preparedness for pandemic influenza among Member States. WHO aims to use the outcomes of the consultation to identify the capacity areas in which it should focus technical assistance in the coming years.

This consultation will be conducted through a secure online WHO platform, where Member States will be asked to complete a questionnaire on pandemic influenza preparedness. All country-specific information will be kept confidential, and only aggregated data will be used in the survey report.

To receive the necessary details for completing the online survey, Member States are invited to designate a focal point responsible for pandemic preparedness. The focal point is expected to complete the questionnaire on behalf of her/his country. For timely completion, the **designation of the focal point, together with contact details including an email address and a phone number, should be sent to WHOGIP@who.int as soon as possible, but no later than 27 July 2018.**

Following the nomination of a focal point, the WHO Global Influenza Programme (GIP) will contact the designated focal point directly and provide a unique username and password for secure access to the questionnaire, and all the necessary information and assistance.

WHO takes this opportunity to renew to Member States the assurance of its highest consideration.

GENEVA, 29 June 2018